



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Benjamin R. Halpern) Group Art Unit 2621
Appl. No. : 10/087,541)
Filed : March 1, 2002) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
For : METHODS FOR LARGE marked attachments are being deposited with
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

16. (New) A method for comparing a query peptide to a plurality of database peptides, the method comprising:

constructing an index table comprising at least one associated mass set for each database peptide wherein the associated mass set comprises mass values for one or more fragments derived from each database peptide;

performing a search of the index table by comparing a query mass set comprising at least one fragmentation mass value for a selected peptide to the at least associated mass set for each database peptide to thereby identify similarities between the query mass set and the at least one associated mass set; and

associating the identity of the selected peptide with that of at least one database peptide based on the similarity between the query mass set and one or more of the associated mass sets.